

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-4, 7, 8 and 10-22 are pending. Claims 1 and 14 are independent. Claims 1, 3, 10, 11 and 14 are hereby amended. Claims 5, 6, 9 and 23-34 are canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. No new matter is added by these amendments. Support for the amended recitations in the claims is found throughout the specification, and specifically at page 35, line 25 to page 37, line 26. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

The specification was objected to. Specifically, the Office Action objected to claim 14. Support for “connecting means for connecting a plurality of communication terminal apparatus” and “first means for transmitting audio data” as recited in claim 14 is found at least on page 5, line 16 and page 23, lines 9-15. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

In particular, “said second image being promoted by the arbitrary communication terminal apparatus utilized by said first user...” is disclosed at least on page 3 lines 20-24 of the specification.

Claims 1-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite.

In claim 14, the “first means for transmitting audio data...” is defined as the Communication I/F as disclosed at least on page 23 lines 9-15 of the specification.

Claim 17 was rejected as allegedly indefinite. In particular, the Office Action stated that it is unclear if the phrase “said connecting means” in claim 17 is ‘in addition to’ or ‘in replacement of’ the phrase “the connection means” as recited in claim 14. Applicants respectfully disagree as claim 14 does not contain the phrase “the connecting means”.

Applicants have amended claims 1, 3 and 14, thereby obviating the rejection. Applicants respectfully request the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraph be withdrawn.

III. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action indicated that claims 1-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,134,223 to Burke et al. (hereafter, merely “Burke”). Applicants note that claims 1-8 and 10-22 are pending.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

“A communication service method...

wherein detailed information of said one or more products is supplied to said plurality of communication terminal apparatus in response to a demand from one of said plurality of communication terminal apparatus and an environment for performing transactions of one or more products is proposed to one of said plurality of communication terminal apparatus to which said more detailed information is supplied.” (emphasis added)

As understood by Applicants, Burke relates to a video access apparatus that provides for audio and video teleconferencing and telephony via a first communication channel coupled to a primary station having communication with a network, such as the public switched telephone network or an ISDN network. The video access apparatus includes a video network interface; a radio frequency modulator/demodulator; a user interface; and a processor arrangement.

Applicants submit that Burke does not teach or suggest the above-identified features of claim 1. Specifically, Applicants submit that there is no teaching or suggestion of an environment for performing transactions of one or more products, as recited in amended claim 1.

Therefore, Applicants submit that independent claim 1 is patentable.

For reasons similar to or somewhat similar to those described above with regard to independent claim 1, amended independent claim 14 is also believed to be patentable.

Therefore, Applicants submit that independent claims 1 and 14 are patentable.

IV. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims are dependent from one of the independent claims, discussed above, and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent

claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

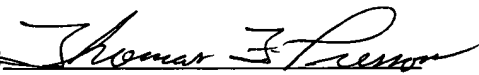
In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited reference, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference, providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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